

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MASAHIRO IMOTO ET AL.

Serial No.: TO BE ASSIGNED Group Art Unit:

Filed: CONCURRENT HEREWITH Examiner:

Title: HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS HAVING EFFECT OF ACTIVATING
NICOTINIC ACETYLCHOLINE ALFA4 BETA2 RECEPTOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 8 as follows:

--8. (Amended) A method of activating $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptors comprising administering an $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine activating effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1 or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.--

Please amend the second Claim 8 appearing on page 58 as follows:

17. (Amended) A method of activating $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptors comprising administering an $\alpha 4\beta 2$

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nicotinic acetylcholine activating effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 9 or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.--

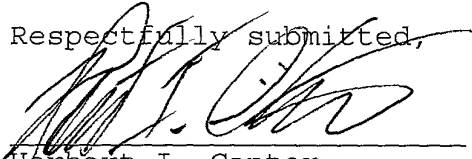
REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination. The claims have been amended to correct improper numbering and to place them in better form for U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

August 22, 2001


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APPENDIX

Please amend Claim 8 as follows:

--8. (Amended) [The use of the compounds] A method of activating $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptors comprising administering an $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine activating effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1 or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof [as the activators for $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptors].--

Please amend the second Claim 8 appearing on page 58 as follows:

[8] 17. (Amended) [The use of the compounds] A method of activating $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptors comprising administering an $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine activating effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 9 or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof [as the activators for $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptors].--